



Department of Justice

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LOUISVILLE CRACK DEALER FOUND GUILTY BY JURY ON DRUG OFFENSES

-Over 110 Grams of Crack Cocaine and a Loaded Pistol Seized Following Traffic Stop-

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Derrick D. Hammond**, age 22, of 1633 South 30th Street, in Louisville, Jefferson County, was found guilty on November 20, 2007, by a federal jury in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, of possessing over 50 grams of crack cocaine for sale, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Hammond faces a potential minimum imprisonment of 10 years.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a one and a half day trial before John G. Heyburn II, Chief Judge, United States District Court.

Filings in the case indicate that Hammond is a local rap artist using the stage name **Stook** or **Stookavelli**. Hammond had been found with over 118 grams of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, on the floorboard of his car. The approximate street value of the crack cocaine involved in the offense, at a minimum, is \$4,000.00.

Trial Facts

The evidence at trial established that on February 9, 2006, Louisville Metropolitan Police Department ("LMPD") 2nd division detectives working an enforcement detail saw heavy foot

traffic, indicative of drug trafficking, going in and out of 1633 South 30th Street. After watching this activity for some time, LMPD Detectives saw two men leave the house, enter a vehicle parked in front of the house and drive off. A few minutes later, the vehicle occupied by the driver and Hammond in the front passenger seat returned and again parked in front of 1633 South 30th Street. Hammond got out of passenger side of the vehicle and went back into the house, then returned a few minutes later. When he returned to the vehicle, he was wearing a coat that he had not been wearing previously.

The vehicle then left the house again, driving north on 30th Street. The driver of the automobile failed to signal a right turn from 30th street onto Southern Avenue. When the detectives activated the emergency lights in their unmarked police vehicle, they saw Hammond immediately turn around in the seat, look at the detectives, and then lean forward in the passenger seat as if stuffing something under the front passenger seat. When the car stopped, Hammond got out of the passenger seat of the car, took off his jacket and tried to run before he was detained. One of the detectives looked into the front passenger floorboard of the car and saw a large quantity of crack cocaine weighing approximately 118 grams. When the detectives searched the car, they also found a loaded Haskell JS-45 .45 caliber pistol under the front passenger seat.

A search of Hammond's person resulted in the discovery of a set of digital scales and \$3077.00 in cash. Hammond made a spontaneous remark that the scales and the cash were his but he didn't know anything about the crack and the gun.

The detectives obtained a search warrant for Hammond's residence where they found 88 milligrams of cocaine and two boxes of sandwich baggies commonly used for packaging crack cocaine. The driver of the car was interviewed and denied any knowledge of the crack cocaine and firearm found in the car. He stated that Hammond had asked him for a ride and that when police pulled them over, Hammond stuffed something under the front passenger seat of the

automobile before the police approached the car.

The maximum potential penalty is life imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years; and the minimum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department, as part of ATF=s mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney=s Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth=s Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney=s Office to ensure that violent crimes are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

Hammond is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Heyburn on February 25, 2008, at 11:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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